

## AMENDMENTS

Please amend the application as follows:

*In the Specification:*

Please amend the paragraph bridging page 57, line 20 – page 58, line 3, to read as follows:

Michael-type addition to conjugated unsaturated groups can take place in good to quantitative yields at room or body temperature and in mild conditions with a wide variety of nucleophiles (Pathak, supra; Moghaddam et al., Journal of Polymer Science: Part A: Polymer Chemistry 31:1589-1597, 1993; and Zhao, supra). Conjugated unsaturated groups, such as vinyl sulfones (Pathak, supra), have been used to link PEG or polysaccharides to proteins through Michael-type reactions with amino- or mercapto-groups.

*In the Claims:*

Please cancel claims 1-4.

Please amend claims 5, 7, 11, 12, and 15 to read as follows:

5. A biomaterial formed from the cross-linking of two or more precursor components wherein at least one of said precursor components has the formula:

$$\begin{aligned} &D-Y-C(O)-(CH_2)_n-S-(CH_2)_2-COX-P, \\ &D-Y-C(O)-(CH_2)_n-NH-(CH_2)_2-COX-P, \\ &D-Y-C(O)-(CH_2)_n-NH-U-P, \\ &D-Y-C(O)-(CH_2)_n-S-U-P, \\ &D-Y-C(O)-(CH_2)_2-S-L-S-CH_2-CH_2-CO-X-P, \\ &D-Y-C(O)-(CH_2)_2-S-L-S-U-P, \\ &D-Y-C(O)-(CH_2)_2-NH-L-S-CH_2-CH_2-CO-X-P, \\ &D-Y-C(O)-(CH_2)_2-NH-L-S-U-P, \\ &D-Y-C(O)-(CH_2)_2-S-L-NH-CH_2-CH_2-CO-X-P, \\ &D-Y-C(O)-(CH_2)_2-S-L-NH-U-P, \\ &D-Y-C(O)-(CH_2)_2-NH-L-NH-CH_2-CH_2-CO-X-P, \text{ or} \\ &D-Y-C(O)-(CH_2)_2-NH-L-NH-U-P, \end{aligned}$$